



FOURTH

Sunday
OF

Advent

DECEMBER 19, 2021

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

Luke 1:39-40

INCARNATION AND PASCHAL MYSTERY

For years, Catholic spiritual writers have drawn our attention to the Christmas liturgy's subtle—and not-so-subtle—linking of Christ's incarnation with his paschal mystery. In the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke, there are countless intimations of the Passion and cross. The saints of the Christmas octave, dubbed "comites Christi," Christ's companions in suffering, form a royal honor guard of martyrs and others who bore witness at great personal sacrifice to the Child we hail as "Prince of Peace," while the wood of the manger evokes the wood of the cross. But these days, sadly, in the wake of seemingly endless mass shootings at schools, we need no reminders of how close in real life are the cradle and the cross. May our hearts find, if not answers, at least comfort in the prophet Micah's reminder that, from the pain of a woman's labor came forth the Child who is our incarnate peace.

COMFORT AND SALVATION

All of today's scriptures seem to declare Christmas's "comfort and joy." Micah declares that, as small as Bethlehem is, the child born there will bring peace that "shall reach to the ends of the earth." Hebrews proclaims that, despite pain and suffering, the "offering of the body of Jesus Christ" saves us all. In today's Gospel, bearing the Christ Child within her, Mary, barely more than a child herself, immediately, unselfishly sets aside her own preoccupations—and as a betrothed but as yet unmarried mother-to-be, how many they must have been—to travel in haste, over dangerous terrain, a four-day journey (the scholars say) from Nazareth to Ain-Karem, to the home of Elizabeth and Zechariah.

BLESSED

Then, just as David leapt and danced before the ancient Ark of the Covenant that bore precious signs of God's abiding presence, so John leaps in his mother Elizabeth's womb as Mary arrives, a living ark bearing God's living presence. Elizabeth joyfully greets Mary in words that we pray daily in the "Hail Mary": "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Why Mary is so "blessed" Elizabeth then explains: "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Likewise, we may dare hope to be "blessed" for "believing that what was spoken" to us "by the Lord"—Jesus' promise of mercy—will be fulfilled as we share God's mercy with everyone. For by reason of our baptism and, more immediately and repeatedly, because of our participation in the Eucharist, we too bear within ourselves the living Christ. To whom, or to what situation, do we need to bear Christ this Christmas? Indeed, throughout the year, how selflessly do we set our own concerns aside? How eagerly—"in haste"—do we, disregarding difficulties, traverse whatever dangerous terrain needs conquering to be of service to another?

TODAY'S READINGS

Micah 5:1-4a
Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

Mass Intentions For the Week

TUESDAY, December 21

Saint Peter Canisius,
Priest and Doctor of the Church

5:15 pm Dan & Jacque Burda †

WEDNESDAY, December 22

7:00 am Healing

THURSDAY, December 23

Saint John of Kanty, Priest

7:00 am Gary Schriever †

FRIDAY, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 pm Nancy Johnson †

Midnight Ruth Ann Wilmes†

SATURDAY, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00 am Pauline Shoemaker †

SATURDAY, December 25

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

4:30 pm St. Mary's Parish Family

SUNDAY, December 26

8:00 am Doug & Mary Crane †

10:00 am Jacob Cardiello †

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.

Who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever

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This Week in Our Parish

MONDAY, December 20

10 am—Women's Bible Study (mr 2)

6 pm—Women's Bible Study (Panera Bread)

WEDNESDAY, December 22

7:00 pm—Choir Rehearsal (church)

THURSDAY, December 23

7:30 am-7:00 pm—Adoration (church)

FRIDAY, December 24

11:30 pm—Choir will sing at Midnight Mass

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6;

Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12,
20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd;

Lk 1:46-56

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14;

Lk 1:57-66

Friday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;

Lk 1:67-79

Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29;

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;

Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14;

Lk 2:1-14

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6;

Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10;

1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24;

Lk 2:41-52

Proper Undertaking

Never undertake anything for which you wouldn't
have the courage to ask the blessings of heaven.

-Georg C. Lichtenberg

November Income Report

November Income	Week 4 (22nd-30th)	November Budget	Still Needed / Estimated Expense
Weekly Envelopes & ACH	23,548.80 (includes annual donations)	70,083.34	Over 18,616.56
Plate	118.00	666.67	Needed 197.42
Maintenance Actual	2,459.75	3,000.00	Under 540.25
Utilities Actual	3,402.15	4,100.00	Under 697.85

Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Reflection question:

How can I make known to others the Incarnation of Christ?

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Shirley Chandler Doris Sweeney
Scott Grigsby Victoria Even
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Debbie Randall Mary Lou Timpe
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Brenda Glynn Nancy Roark
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George Grimm Katie Wilson
Luke Babcock Dick Graue
Pat & Ryan McShane
Jari Rusnack Jamie Wilson
Elizabeth Ruddock Karen Burns
Joyce Steuber Irene Marshall
Sharon Stribling Verle Gilbert
Kamron McKeough Marge Reynolds
Susan Jones Maureen McKeough

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Blake Stearnes, USN
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Ryan Campbell, USN
AS2 Lisa McDonald, USN
CPT Mitch Wear, USArmy
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*Dear Saint Mary's Parishioners,
Despite our best efforts to plan,
Christmas is often full of uncertainty.
Mary and Joseph knew that feeling.
Even in the final hours before the birth
of their son, they were uncertain where
they would find a place to deliver him.
One thing they knew for sure was God
would take care of them. They held
tight to their faith and the message of
the angel. Although it may not have
been the way they planned it, it turned
out the way God planned it.*

*May God's grand design direct and
bless your Christmas.*

*Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Joe*

Seasonal Mass Schedule

Nativity of the Lord

Friday, December 24

4:30 pm (vigil)

Midnight Mass

(carols begin at 11:30 pm)

Saturday, December 25

8:00 am

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday, December 25

4:30 pm

Sunday, December 26

8:00 and 10:00 am



A Christmas message from Sister Angeline

**Fr. Joe and Parishioners of St. Mary Parish,
“Peace on Earth”, “Glory to God in the Highest”,
“Silent Night”.**

**May the blessings of this Holy Season be with each of you.
With continued prayers and warm thoughts for a blessed
Christmas and Year in 2022
Sister Angeline Schram**

If you would like to send a card, her address is:

**1125 Prairie Dr NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402**

St. Peter Parish is hiring a new Music Director!

This is a permanent part-time position with independent hours. Musical skills and experience are required, as well as good leadership and communication skills. For a job description and to apply, email Father Brian at brianjstraus@gmail.com

Preventing Youth Suicide Training Announcement

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), suicide is the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-34. The number of people who contemplate suicide is even higher. Suicide can be preventable with early intervention. In an effort to assist their members with this delicate topic, Catholic Mutual Group has developed several training videos. The training video, **Preventing Youth Suicide**, (<https://CMGconnect.org>) is designed to give adults who are in close, frequent contact with young people guidance about warning signs to identify if someone is potentially considering suicide. It also reviews the profound importance of taking immediate action if any of those red flags are observed.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Build your marriage on solid rock ... How well can your marriage withstand the storms of this life? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is an opportunity to strengthen the foundation of your marriage. Grounded in the love of Jesus Christ, the weekend will provide you the tools and the time necessary to go deeper into the Sacrament so that you can live more intimately and responsibly as a couple of God.

Make plans now to attend the weekend of March 18-20, 2022 at the congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer in Carthage, MO. For more information, or to register for a weekend, visit www.wwme.org, or call/Email Kim Brayman at (417) 866-0841 / kbrayman@dioscgo.org

Masking remains recommended at St. Mary's

You no longer have to wear a mask if you have been vaccinated.
The distribution of Holy Communion will be returned to its proper place in the Mass.
The faithful will return to their pews after receiving Communion.
The Precious Blood will NOT be reinstated at this time.
Mass will end as it did pre-pandemic.
The Sign of Peace will be reinstated in a safe way at this time.
All weekend Ministers will be reintroduced **with** masks.
Donations will continue to be placed at the baptismal font and south exits.

This Weekend's Ministry Schedule December 18 & 19

4:30 Mass

Lector

*Charlene Campbell
Ivan Johnson*

Usher

*Denis Desmond
Ivan Johnson
Jim Mobley
Volunteer*

Organist

Fran Cook

Cantor

Mark Timpe

Eucharistic Minister

*John Olson
Mary Olson*

Altar Servers

*Volunteer
Volunteer*

8:00 Mass

Lector

*Bob Schroer
Volunteer*

Usher

*Chuck Crandon
Martin O'Toole
Fred Wheeler
Volunteer*

Organist

Mary Ann Turk

Cantor

Terry Wachter

Eucharistic Minister

*Bob Schroer
Fred Wheeler*

Altar Servers

*Brenda Glynn
Volunteer*

10:00 Mass

Lector

*Lisa Green
Chris Perrey*

Usher

*Pam Black
Warren Black
Andy Ostmeyer
Volunteer*

Organist

Brian Hilsabeck

Cantor

Bill Williams

Eucharistic Minister

*Theresa Adams
Volunteer*

Altar Servers

*Kayden Williams
Volunteer*

NOTE: Eucharistic Ministers will need to hand sanitize and wear a mask.

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri (CCSOMO) has tax credits available for a multitude of projects. Unlike deductions and exemptions, which reduce the amount of taxable income, tax credits reduce the actual amount of tax owed. To learn more about which tax credits you may qualify for or to make a gift, please call our office at 417-720-4213 or email Mandy Long at mlong@ccsomo.org.



JACS return to school: Guidance for Return to School information may be found on the JACS website: <https://www.jacss.org/about/covid-19/> It will be found under the title: Letter from the Director – September 2021

Christmas Break

Joplin Area Catholic Schools will be dismissed at noon on December 17th and closed for Christmas break December 20th through December 31st, 2021, with classes resuming January 3rd, 2022.

Annual Appeal- End of Year Giving

Our students and families are **Living a Legacy of Mercy** each day. Our annual appeal is underway, and we ask that you consider the gift of prayer, time, or a monetary donation toward our appeal and for the students attending the Joplin Area Catholic Schools. Intention cards are available or contact development@jacss.org to donate. Thank you for your support.

Outstanding Educator and Benefactor Awards

Each February during Catholic Schools Week, JACS recognizes one outstanding educator within the JACS system and one generous benefactor. If you would like to nominate an educator who goes above and beyond to educate, nurture, and inspire students, please consider filling out a nomination form this year. If you know of a JACS supporter who is generous in sharing their time and talents in ways that helps our school thrive, please consider nominating him or her as well. Nomination forms for both awards are included in your Family Communicator today. Deadline for both awards is Friday, December 10. Nomination forms may be dropped off in the St. Mary's School Office and the St. Peter's/ McAuley School Office or emailed to development@jacss.org.

Give the Gift of Golf

The McAuley Catholic Boys Basketball team is selling golf cards! Sixteen (16) area courses are available, and you get 32 Green Fees FREE. Buy the golf card for \$32.99, and 30% comes back to our students. This is a perfect gift for Christmas! Purchase Online at 4stategolf.com Apply the coupon code "jacs" at check-out for a discount PLUS 30% for all "jacs" coded orders will go back to JACS. Some Greens include Eagle Creek, Baxter Springs, Briarbrook, Four Oaks, Holiday Island, Swing Right and more!

Coaching Positions

The following coaching positions are open for the 2022-2023 school year. If you are interested, please contact Mike Howard at: mhoward@jacss.org for details.

- HS Volleyball - Head Coach
- HS Volleyball - Assistant Coach
- MS Volleyball - Head Coach

The proof of love is deed.

-Sister Catherine McAuley, Sisters of Mercy founder

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Office Hours: Monday — Friday, 8:00 am — 4:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass—4:30 pm

Sunday—8:00 and 10:00 am

Tuesday—5:15 pm

Wednesday through Friday—7:00 am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00—4:00 pm or by appointment.

ADORATION

Thursday, 7:30 am—7:00 pm

PARISH STAFF

Stephanie M. Elbert, Secretary

John England, Custodian

Stephen Baich, Bookkeeper

Patty Wheeler, Parish Council President

DIRECTOR of Joplin Area Catholic Schools

Sister Julie Brandt, SSND, 624-5003

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Joanne Lown, St. Mary Grade School (P-5)

Dr. Emily Yoakam, St. Peter's Middle School (6-8) and

McAuley Catholic High School (9-12)

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM: Parents are to be registered in the Parish. Call for an appointment and visit. Preparation classes are required. Schedule will be given at appointment time.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Arrange for a date at the Parish Office at least 8 months prior to your wedding. All diocesan regulations must be fulfilled.

RCIA: For adults inquiring into the Catholic faith, to learn more about being Catholic, or interested in becoming Catholic. For more information contact the Parish Office.

ANNOINTING OF THE SICK: Those that are preparing for surgery, suffer from a chronic illness, an addiction, or the effects of aging may receive this Sacrament by calling the Parish Office.

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All bulletin articles must be e-mailed or dropped off at the Parish Office by Noon on Monday for the following weekend's issue. Holidays subject to longer lead times.

Please e-mail bulletin articles to:

church@stmarysparishjoplin.com

Welcome!

We extend our hands and hearts in Christian fellowship to you here, whether longtime residents or newly arrived in the parish. If you are not registered, please fill out the form below and place in collection basket or mail to the Parish Office. ALL ADULTS, 18 YEARS OLD AND NO LONGER IN SCHOOL, MUST REGISTER IN THEIR OWN NAME.

NAME _____ PHONE _____ # in FAMILY _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

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Joplin, MO 64804

TELEPHONE

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CONTACT PERSON

Stephanie

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Please send 300 bulletins this week

